

**MARVEL**  
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# ASTONISHING **X-MEN**<sup>®</sup>

WHEDON • CASSADAY



# GIFTED

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Uncanny X-Men creators **Joss Whedon** (TV's *Avengers*), **Ross Andru** (Marvel's *Blade*) and **John Cassaday** (Marvel's *Uncanny X-Men*) present the explosive, all-new *Uncanny X-Men* series — marking a return to classic X-Men and the beginning of a brand-new era for the X-Men!

Cyclops and Emma Frost re-form the X-Men with the express purpose of "civilizing" the world. But when breaking news regarding the mutant gene unexpectedly hits the streets, will it do all their new plans before they even get started? As demand for the "mutant cure" reaches new-world levels, the X-Men go hand-in-hand with the enigmatic Dr. with an unexpected ally — and some unexpected adversaries — fighting the war!

Collecting *Uncanny X-Men* #45-55.





**MARVEL**  
PSR 1

JOSS WHEDON

JOHN CASSADAY

# ASTONISHING X-MEN







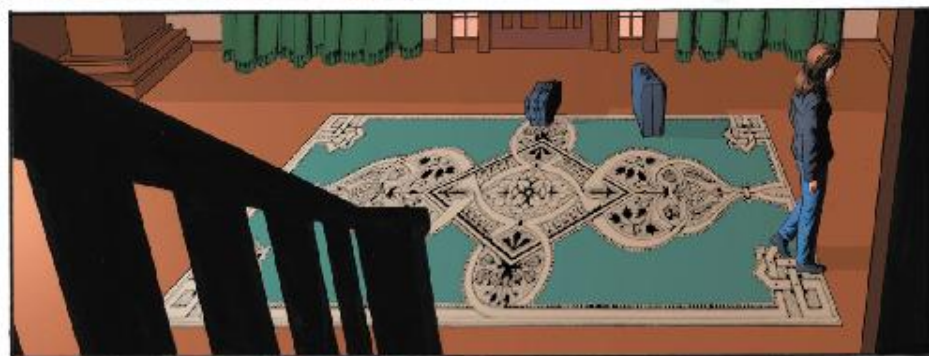


# GIFTED











AT LEAST I HOPE  
I'M NOT LATE.

HI.

IT'S POSSIBLE  
THAT I'M  
LATE.

QUITE  
SO.

THIS, CHILDREN, IS  
KITTY PRYDE, WHO  
APPARENTLY FEELS  
THE NEED TO MAKE  
A GRAND  
ENTRANCE.

I'M SORRY. I WAS  
BUSY RENEVERERING  
TO PUT ON ALL MY  
CLOTHES.

SO GUSHINGLY  
GLAD YOU COULD  
JOIN US.









WE  
HAVE LEARNED  
THE FIRST  
LESSON.

THEY  
WILL ALWAYS  
HATE US.



WE WILL  
NEVER LIVE  
IN A WORLD  
OF PEACE.

WHICH  
IS WHY CONTROL  
AND NON-VIOLENCE  
ARE ESSENTIAL. WE MUST  
PROVE OURSELVES  
A PEACEFUL  
PEOPLE.

WE MUST  
GIVE THE ORDINARY  
HUMANS RESPECT,  
COMPLIANCE, AND  
UNDERSTANDING.



AND WE  
MUST NEVER  
MISTAKE THAT  
FOR TRUST.



YOU SHOULD HAVE  
WARNED ME YOU WERE  
GONNA DO THAT.

YOU  
WOULD  
HAVE SAID  
NO.

AMONG  
OTHER  
THINGS...













"AND IN FRONT OF  
THE STUDENTS!"

AS IF EMMA'S  
LITTLE GAME YESTERDAY  
DIDN'T WIND THEM UP  
ENOUGH, THEY HAVE TO  
SEE THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE  
STAFF TRYING TO  
KILL EACH OTHER!

YOU TWO  
SHOULD BE LONG  
PAST THAT NONSENSE.  
WHERE ON EARTH  
DID IT COME  
FROM?

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER.

I'M NOT APOLOGIZING TO LOGAN,  
AND I WOULDN'T ACCEPT ONE  
IN RETURN.

SCOTT,  
YOU'RE  
ACTING  
HEAD OF  
THE --

IT WAS  
INEXCUSABLE, I  
AGREE, AND IT'S  
GOING TO MAKE  
WHAT I HAVE TO SAY  
ALL THE MORE  
ABSURD.

BUT I'M  
GOING TO SAY  
IT ANYWAY.

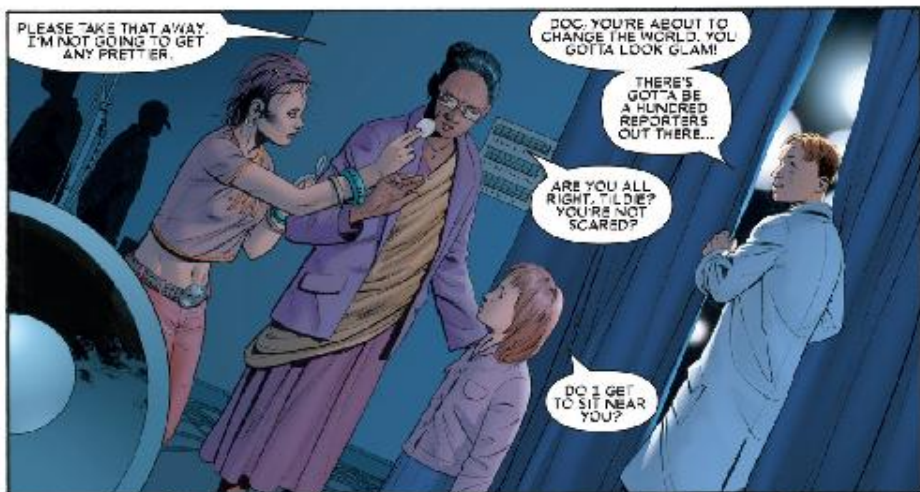
















WHAT IS A  
MUTANT?

EVERYBODY  
ON THE GROUND!  
NOW! NOW!

YOU  
WANNA BULLET?  
YOU WANNA BU.LLET  
IN YOUR SKULL?



-- WORD YET ON THE  
HOSTAGE SITUATION  
IN THE CHAPMAN  
BUILDING, BUT THE  
FBI HAVE CORDONED  
OFF A FOUR BLOCK  
RADIUS --

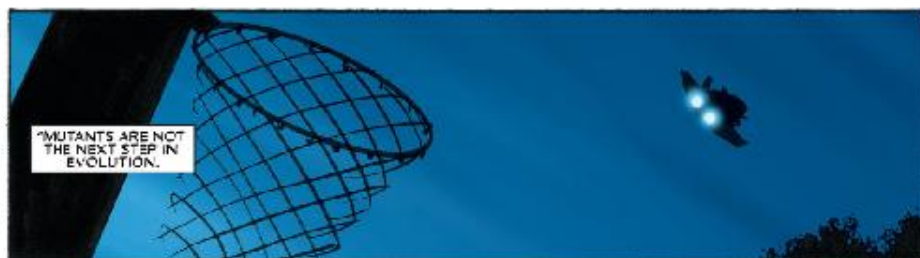












"MUTANTS ARE NOT  
THE NEXT STEP IN  
EVOLUTION.



"THEY ARE NOT THE  
END OF HUMANKIND.



"THE MUTANT" GENE  
IS NOTHING MORE  
THAN A DISEASE

"A CORRUPTION  
OF HEALTHY  
CELLULAR  
ACTIVITY.

"AND NOW,  
AT LAST..."



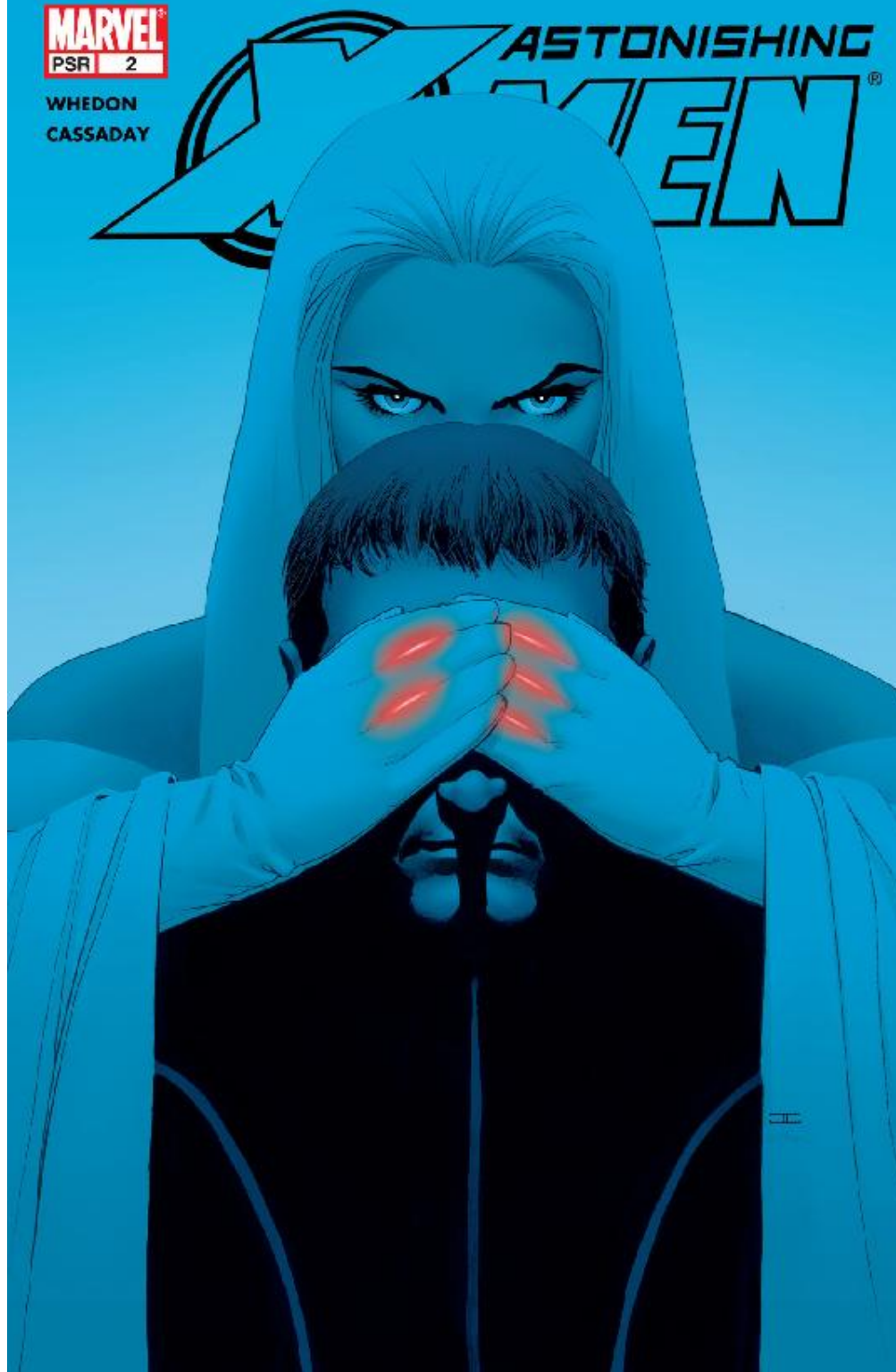
...WE  
HAVE  
FOUND A  
CURE.

**WHEDON • CASSADAY**  
**MARTIN • ELIPOULOS • MOORE • SEIDLMEIER • MARTS • QUESADA • BUCKLEY**

**MARVEL**  
PSR 2

WHEDON  
CASSADAY

# ASTONISHING X-MEN









A CHILD'S  
MUTANT POWER  
USUALLY MANIFESTS  
AT PUBERTY. THIS  
WAS NOT THE CASE  
FOR TILDE  
SOAMES.

CLICK

HER ABILITY TO MANIFEST  
HER OWN NIGHTMARES COST  
THE LIVES OF HER PARENTS.  
AS WELL AS OFFICER  
HOY."

SHE  
UNDERSTANDS  
THAT THIS WAS NOT  
HER FAULT.

"THIS BRAVE CHILD  
OFFERED TO WORK WITH  
US, UNDER THE SUPERVISION  
OF HER GUARDIANS AND  
GOVERNMENT HEALTH  
AGENCIES, TO TEST GENETECH  
LAB'S NEW VACCINE.

IN THE COMING  
MONTHS, SHE WILL MAKE  
HERSELF AVAILABLE TO  
GENETIC TEAMS FROM EVERY  
NATION TO PROVE WHAT WE  
NOW CONCLUSIVELY  
KNOW.

THE MUTANT  
STRAIN CAN BE  
ELIMINATED SAFELY  
AND REVERSIBLY.







THERE IS  
SUCH A THING  
AS A SECOND  
CHANCE.



WHAT  
DO WE  
SEE?



SCANNER'S READING  
ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE  
ARM-BODIES IN THE  
PENT-HOUSE. SIX OF  
THEM CARRYING  
SOMETHING A LOT  
WARMER.

BOMBS?

ON GUNS.  
STATE-OF-THE-  
ART-OF-WAR.

WASN'T S.H.I.E.L.D.  
DEVELOPING SOME  
KIND OF THERMAL  
ORDNANCE?



THESE  
CLOWNS AIN'T  
S.H.I.E.L.D.

DEPLOYMENT'S  
AMATEUR HOUR--  
RIGHT FLANK'S  
WIDE OPEN.

THAT'S  
YOUR ENTRY  
POINT.

WAYSE.

OUR BIGGEST  
QUESTION MARK'S  
THE HOSTAGES. IF  
THEY'RE GOING  
TO PLAY HARD.



THE HOSTAGES ARE  
FLAT ON THE GROUND.  
PRAYING OR PEEING.

YOU CAN  
READ THEM FROM  
HERE?

IT IS WALTER  
LANGFORD'S ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISER FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF  
VICTORIAN  
ARCHITECTURE.

IT'S THE  
FIRST YEAR I'VE  
MISSED IT.



ANYWAY, OUR  
BIGGEST QUESTION ISN'T  
THE HOSTAGES, OR THE MEN WITH THE  
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL WEAPONRY.





OUR  
BIGGEST  
QUESTION  
IS HIM.



HMM.

A MOTH.



A SINGLE  
POW'4 WO:3 D  
HAVE MADE MORE  
NO SE TOUCHING  
DOWN.

























LOCKHEED!  
YOU FOUND  
ME!

LOCKS LIKE  
OUR FRIENDS  
GONE.

WITHOUT  
SO MUCH AS  
A "THIS ISN'T  
OVER!"

THERE'S  
SIMPLY NO  
BT G-87'S  
NOWADAYS.

HELL, I  
THINK WE SHOULD  
MAKE HIM TEAM  
LEADER.

YOU ARE  
THE BEST  
N-DRAGON  
EVER.





ZERO CASUALTIES, WHICH IS GOOD.

BUT ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT, WE JUST GOT THRASHED.

SO NOW LET'S DO THE HARD PART.



WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?

IS ANYBODY HURT? IS THIS ANOTHER MUTANT ATTACK?

EVERYBODY'S FINE, AND NO, THIS IS NOT MUTANT RELATED.

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?



WE CAME BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE IN TROUBLE.

MYSTER LANGFORD.

WE X-MEN HAVE ALWAYS FELT IT IS OUR DUTY TO USE OUR SUPERPOWERS TO HELP NOT JUST OUR OWN COMMUNITY, BUT

WHO FLEW AWAY? WAS THAT STORM?

I'M PLEASED.

DID IT LOOK LIKE STORM?

YOU CAN SEE BY ONLY COUNTEES... THAT WE ARE ALL HE-EROCES..



WE DON'T YET KNOW WHO ATTACKED.

WE HEARD SHOOTING. DID YOU START THE SHOOTING?

WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE PEOPLE WE SAVED WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED, MISS?

UM...WELL... I MOSTLY... SHADOWCAT IS WHAT I USED TO.

DO YOU HAVE A LICENSE FOR THAT BAT?

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BAT?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

MY FAMILY'S EXTREMELY GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR GENERATIONS, AND THE VERY YEAR IT BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT I AM A MUTANT, I AM FOR THE FIRST TIME LEFT OFF THE GUEST LIST.

TELL ME, DEAR WALTER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE OBSESSED WITH THE WORKS OF LEROY NEWMAN?

I MEAN, SEXUALLY?

BEING HATED AND FEARED BY A WORLD THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND US BEATS THIS CIRCUS ANY DAY.

OH, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GROUNDY WHEN YOU GET CUT IN HALF.

DR. MCGOY, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THIS SO-CALLED 'MILKMAN' CURSE?

I'M SORRY.

YOU'RE?











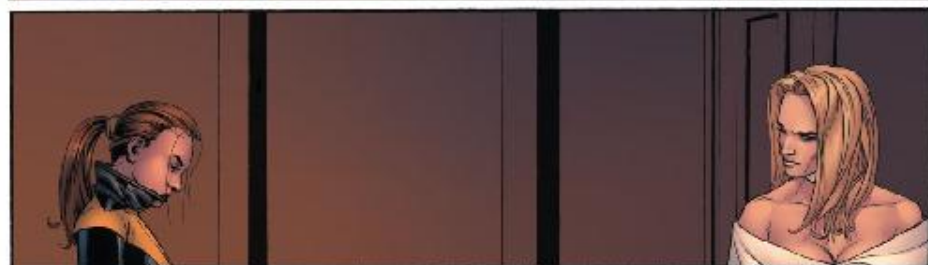






I DON'T HAVE A  
FAMILY FAMOUS FOR  
MORAL FIBER. I LIKE  
TO THINK I'VE EVOLVED...  
BUT I NAMED SOMEONE  
ON THE TEAM THAT I  
HADN'T REALLY FOLLOWT  
A...ONGSIDE.

SOMEONE  
WHO WOULD BE  
INCLINED TO WATCH  
ME, IF I...



THE FIRST TIME  
I EVER MET THE  
X-MEN, THE FIRST  
DAY... THEY WERE  
AMUSED... AND  
CAPTURED, AND  
CAGED.

BY  
YOU.



I LEARNED MORE  
ABOUT GOOD AND  
EVIL IN THAT ONE DAY  
THAN I EVER HAVE  
BEFORE OR SINCE. I  
WAS THIRTEEN.

WHEN I  
THINK ABOUT  
EVIL, WHENEVER  
I THINK ABOUT  
THE CONCEPT OF  
EVIL, YOURS IS  
THE FACE THAT  
I SEE.



I DON'T  
HAVE TO  
WATCH YOU,  
MISS FROST.













**MARVEL**  
PSR 3

WHEDON  
CASSADAY

# ASTONISHING **X-MEN**



JC  
Cassaday







WHEN  
YOU'RE FLYING  
IN A VERY LITERAL  
SENSE THE WORLD  
GOES AWAY.

IT MAKES  
EVERYTHING ELSE...  
SMALLER. AND SORT  
OF OKAY. TOO. IT'S  
THE MOST IMPORTANT  
FEELING.

I CAN'T  
LOSE THAT.



THAT'S  
NOT GONNA  
HAPPEN.

IS  
NOT?

WING. JUST  
'CAUSE SOMEONE  
GOES ON TV AND  
SAYS THEY HAVE A  
'CURE FOR MUTATION'...  
THAT DOESN'T MEAN  
THAT IT'S EVEN TRUE.  
AND IF IT IS...

...NOBODY'S  
GONNA FORCE  
IT ON YOU.



MUTANTS ARE  
A COMMUNITY. WE'RE  
A PEOPLE AND THERE'S  
NO WAY ANYBODY CAN  
MAKE US BE WHAT THEY  
WANT. WE STICK  
TOGETHER AND DON'T  
PANIC OR OVERREACT...  
YOU'LL SEE.

WE'RE  
STRONGER  
THAN THIS.



MISS  
PRYDE...

...ARE YOU  
A MESSING  
RETARD?



















CAUSE I'M  
GONNA KILL  
'EM.



SO IT  
IS ONE OF  
YOURS.

THE CASINGS  
BEEN MODIFIED.  
BUT THE PACKAGE  
IS DEFINITELY  
S.H.I.E.L.D. DESIGN.  
EXPERIMENTAL,  
VERY NEW.



IF ONE OF THOSE  
CLOWNS HAD GOTTEN  
A ROUND OFF NEAR  
CIVILIANS ONCE IT  
WENT HOT...

WE MADE  
SURE THEY  
DIDN'T.

WHAT ARE A  
BUNCH OF SECOND-  
RATE MERCS DOING  
WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.  
WEAPONRY THAT  
ISN'T EVEN IN THE  
FIELD YET?



I I KNEW  
THAT I'D  
BE KILLING  
SOMEBODY  
ALREADY.

WELL THEN  
WHAT ARE A BUNCH  
OF SECOND-RATE  
MERCS DOING WITH  
A PSYCHOTIC ALIEN  
WEAPON?

"ORD OF THE  
BREAKWORLD,"  
ANY BELLS?



YOU KNOW  
FOR SURE THIS  
GUY'S AN E.T.?

RIGHT NOW  
I DON'T KNOW  
MUCH.

SO HE  
COULD BE  
ANYTHING.



COULD  
EVEN BE A  
MUTANT.























DON'T  
PUSH THIS,  
LOGAN.

I AM NOT  
GETTING  
YOU--  
I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
I AM.



I USED TO HAVE  
FINGERS. I USED TO  
HAVE A MOUTH YOU  
COULD KISS. I  
WOULD WALK DOWN  
THE STREET AND...

MAYBE IT IS  
THE SECONDARY  
STAGE OF MY MUTATION.  
OR MAYBE CASANDRA  
NOVA WAS RIGHT.

MAYBE I'M  
DEVOLVING.



MY MIND IS  
STILL SHARP, BUT  
MY INSTINCTS, MY  
EMOTIONS...

...YOU  
KNOW WHAT IT'S  
LIKE TO BE OUT  
OF CONTROL.



WHAT AM I  
SUPPOSED TO  
DO, LOGAN?

WAIT UNTIL I'M  
LYING IN FRONT OF  
THE STUDENT'S  
PLAYING WITH A BALL  
OF STRING?

I AM  
A HUMAN  
BEING.



WRONG.

YOU'RE  
AN X-MAN.









SO WHAT--  
THE TEACHERS  
SPEND ALL THEIR  
TIME HERE TRYING  
TO KILL EACH  
OTHER?

"THIS  
PLACE IS SO  
COOL."

















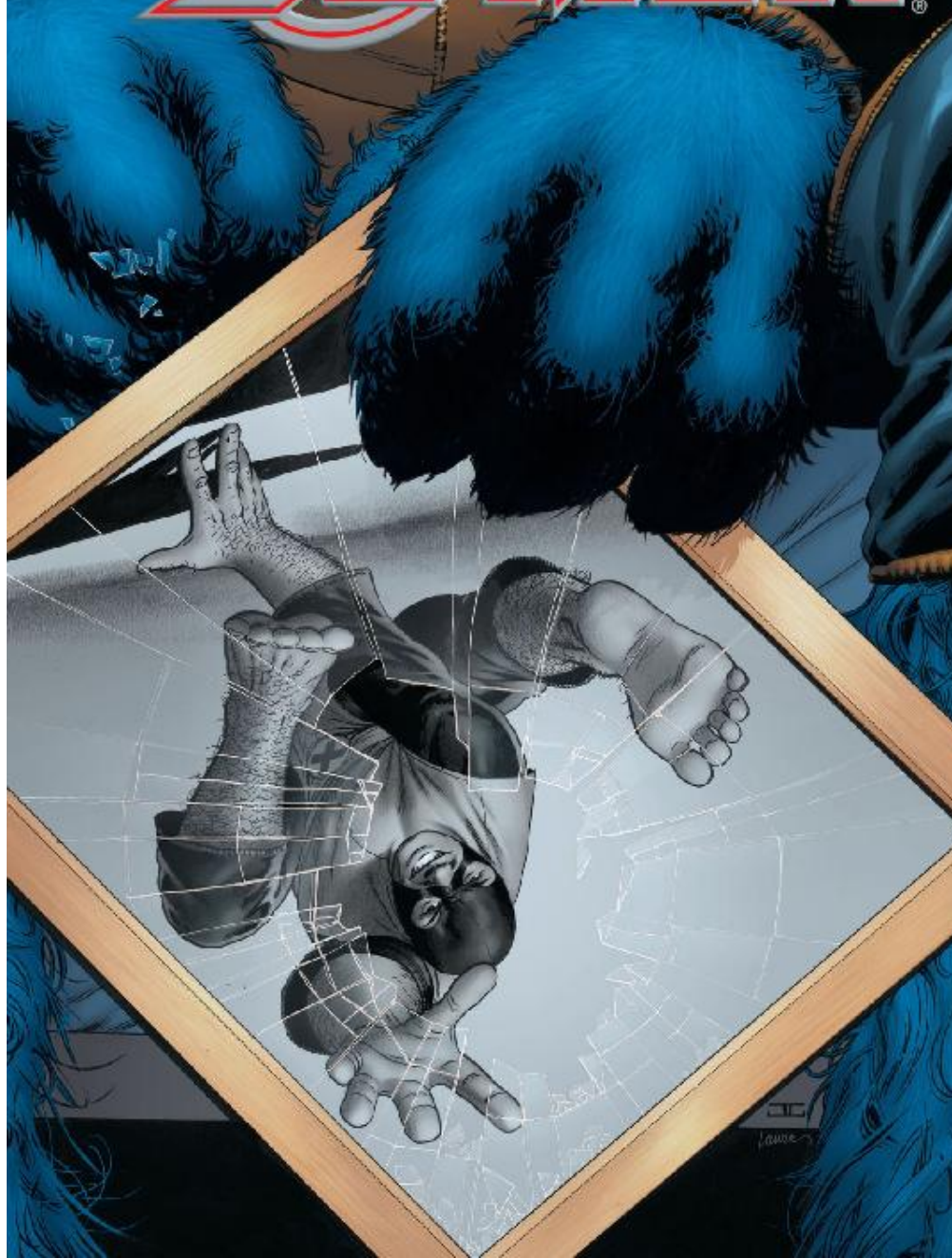




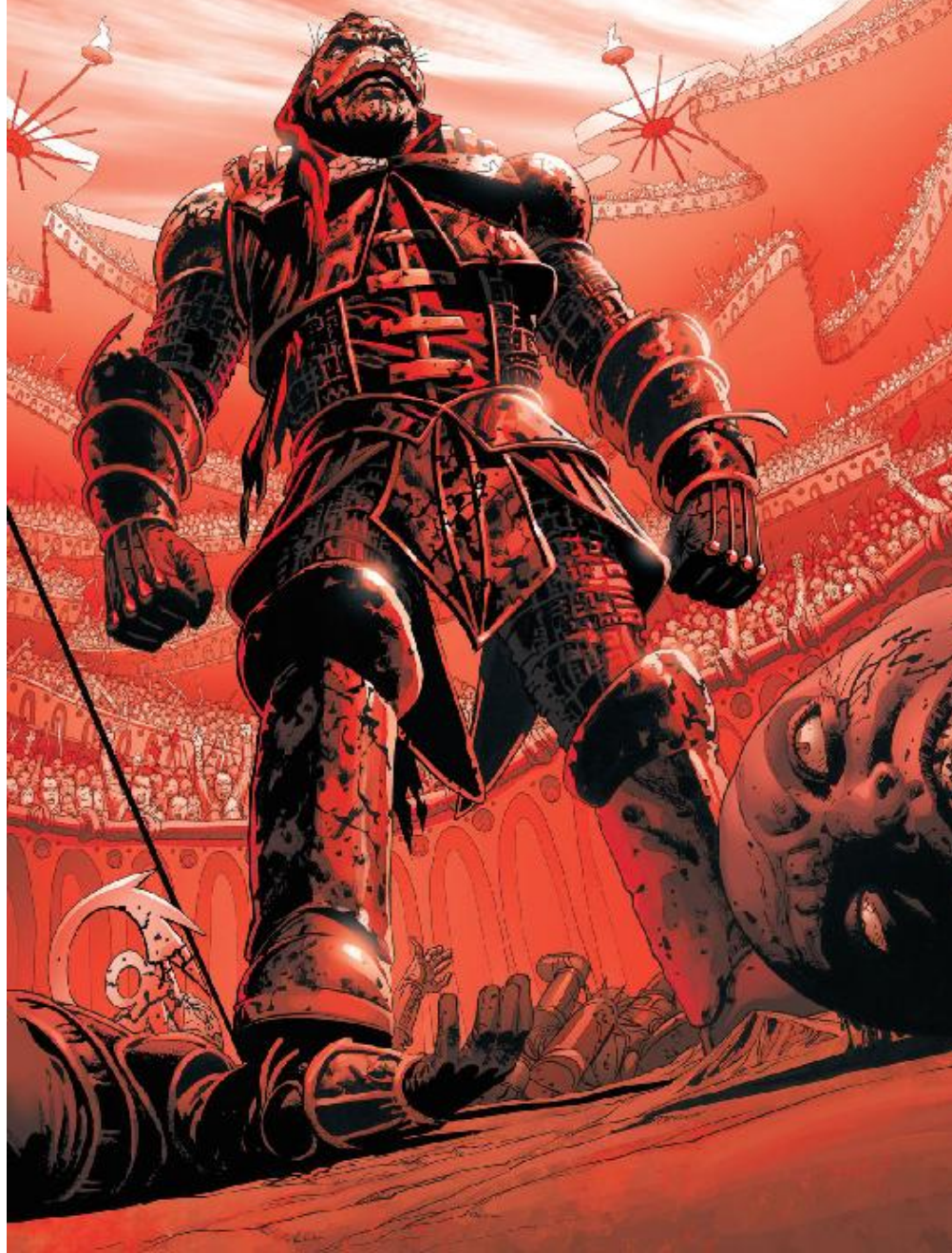
**MARVEL**  
PSR 4

WHEDON  
CASSADAY

# ASTONISHING X-MEN



I HAVE COME  
SO FAR.







I WORKED FOR  
DECADES TO REACH  
MY PLACE...

NOTHING COULD STOP ME.  
THERE WERE GREAT WARRIORS--  
AND FRIENDS--LEFT BLOODIED  
IN THE KILLING GROUNDS, SO THAT  
I COULD FULFILL MY DESTINY...

TO BE CHOSEN  
FOR THE GREAT  
MISSION...



TO COME  
HERE.



TO THIS SMALL, STINKING  
WORLD...TO WORK FOR  
YEARS WITHOUT BLOOD ON  
MY FISTS, WITHOUT RESPECT,  
WITHOUT RESPECT...



IT'S TIME ALL OF  
THAT CHANGED.



IT'S TIME THE  
X-MEN PAID FOR  
MY PATIENCE.



ORT'S  
PREPPED.



THE  
OTHERS ARE  
COMING.

YOU DIDN'T  
SAY ANYTHING  
TO...

OF COURSE NOT.  
BENETECH MIGHT  
BE USING A MUTANT  
FOR TISSUE SAMPLES.  
THAT'S ALL I DIDN'T  
SPECIFY.

BECAUSE WE  
PROBABLY WON'T  
FIND ANYTHING  
CONCLUSIVE.



LIKE  
A WARM  
BODY?



GOOD  
TO GO.

LET'S  
BRING ON SOME  
HURT







THEY'VE GOT THE DELUXE DETECTION PACKAGE IN THERE, SO YOU'LL WANT TO START FROM BELOW.

SECURITY MAINFRAME SHOULD BE HOUSED IN THE BASEMENT. THINK YOU CAN DISABLE IT WITHOUT TRIPPING ANYTHING?

IT'S DONE.

WHEN DID I GET TO DISABLE SOMETHING?

OH, SWEATIE, IF, WILL YOU?

INSPIRING COSTUMES NOTWITHSTANDING, WE'RE NOT HEROES TONIGHT.



"LET'S TRY TO BE SUBTLE FOR ONCE."



PLACE IS A BIT OF A MAZE, BUT THE MAIN RESEARCH CENTER IS DEFINITELY UP TOP.



GOD, BUT THAT IS UNNERVING.

WRIGGLE LIKE THAT NEXT TIME AND I'LL LOSE MY GRIP IN THE MIDDLE OF A WALL. YOU'LL USE MOLECULES.

AS DEATHS GO, IT'S NOT THE FUNNEST.



THREE GUARDS ON THIS FLOOR.

THEY CAME OVER ALL SLEEPY JUST NOW.



TEAMS. WE WORK EVERY FLOOR.





YOU  
CALLED HER  
WHAT?



NO WONDER  
YOU GOT DETENTION,  
YOU LOSER. MISS PRYDE'S  
A TEACHER. JUST 'CAUSE  
YOU'VE GOT THE HOTS  
FOR HER DOESN'T MAKE  
YOU EQUALS.

SHE JUST GOT  
ME SO MAD! THAT  
PATRONIZING LINE  
THAT MUTANTS ARE ALL  
GONNA STICK TOGETHER--  
I MEAN SHE'S POLITE!  
SOME OF THE WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN "NOTS"?



OH, PLEASE.  
LIKE THERE'S FIVE  
GUYS ON CAMPUS WHO  
AREN'T CRUSHING  
ON HER.

TA-HE, YOU'RE A  
MIND-READER  
REAKO.

'COON, I'M A REAL  
X-MAN ONLY I'M YOUNG  
AND COOL AND I KNOW  
ALL ABOUT COMPUTERS  
AND MAYBE A CUTE SENIOR  
WOULD HAVE A SHOT WITH  
ME IF HE SEEMED REALLY  
SENSITIVE AND  
SUPERPOWERED..."

NO, BUT  
BLINDFOLD  
IS...



SHE'S  
READING GUYS?  
THAT'S SO AGAINST  
THE BY-LAWS--

SHE ALSO  
SHE'S THE ONLY  
REASON YOU CAME  
HERE WAS YOU  
WANNA MAKE  
X-MAN.

WHAT?



HEY, JOIN THE  
CLUB. APART FROM  
THE LOSERS LINING UP  
FOR THAT BOGUS CURE,  
WHO DOESN'T WANNA  
MAKE THE A--LIST?

BLINDFOLD,  
MAN--NO EYES,  
BIG MOUTH.

SHE'S A  
BLABBER, YEAH,  
BUT SHE'S OKAY.  
I JUST THINK  
SHE'S REALLY  
LONELY.

I MEAN, THINK ABOUT  
IT FOR A  
MINUTE...



MINUTE'S  
L.P.



WHAT DO YOU  
WANT ME TO DO,  
SCOTT? PRETEND -  
DON'T FEEL YOUR  
HEART RACE WHEN  
YOU THINK OF  
JEAN?

SHE'S A PART  
OF MR. SIMMA,  
COMES WITH THE  
PACKAGE, WHICH  
YOU KNOW.



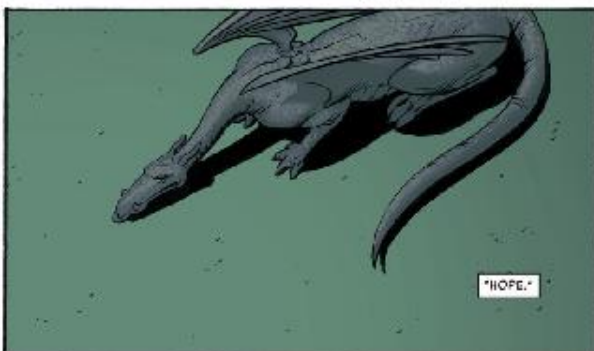
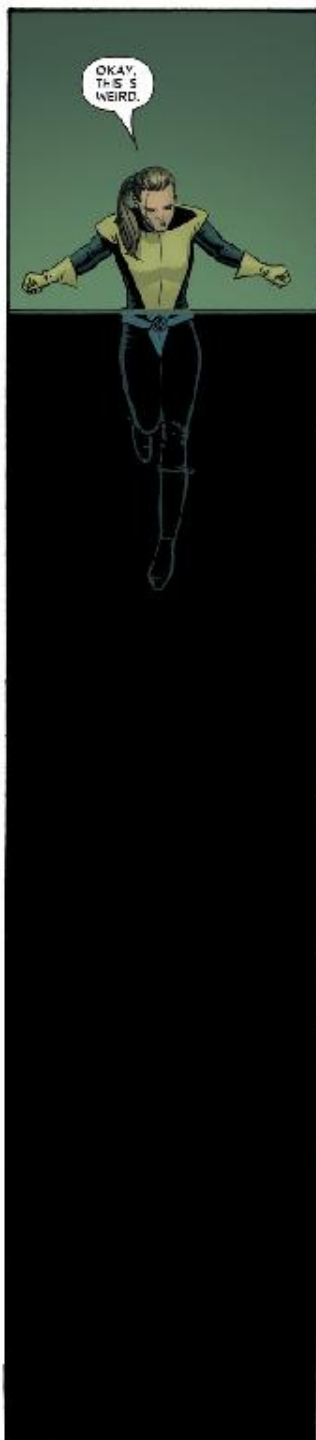
THE WOMAN  
WAS NO GOOD  
FOR YOU.

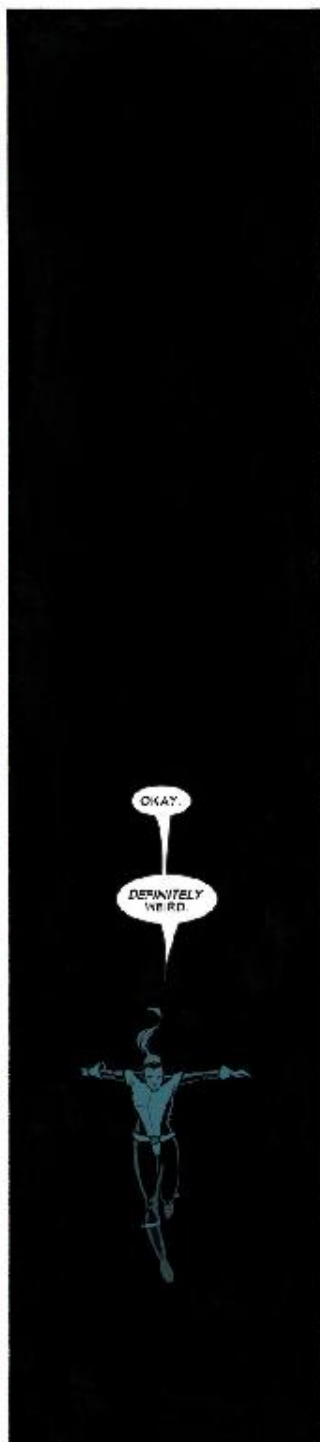
ATTACKING  
HER IS NEVER  
GONNA...

RIGHT, RIGHT.  
BASE DEFILLEMENT.  
JEAN GREY IS A  
SACRED COW.

AT LAST,  
HE AGREES  
ON MAL'UP  
T-44.











AND YOU'RE  
SURE THEY'RE  
NOT HERE?

I SAW THE  
X-FLANE TAKE  
OFF LIKE TWO  
HOURS AGO.

AND YOU  
DON'T KNOW  
WHERE THEY  
WENT.

A MISSION  
OR SOMETHING...I  
MEAN, THEY DON'T  
TELL US STUFF  
LIKE THAT.

THIS IS VERY  
FRUSTRATING.



DID YOU  
WANNA LEAVE  
THEM A MESSAGE,  
OH...

OH GOD,  
THAT'S SO  
STUPID.

WE'RE NOT X-MEN.  
WE'RE JUST KIDS AND  
UM...YOU COULD  
COME BACK...



YOU  
TWO ARE  
MUTANTS.

BUT WE'RE NOT,  
LIKE COOL ONES  
OR ANYTHING...

WING...

YOU'VE HELPED  
ME, YOU HAVE MY  
THANKS FOR  
THAT.



AND  
YES...

..I WILL LEAVE  
THE X-MEN A  
MESSAGE.



WING...















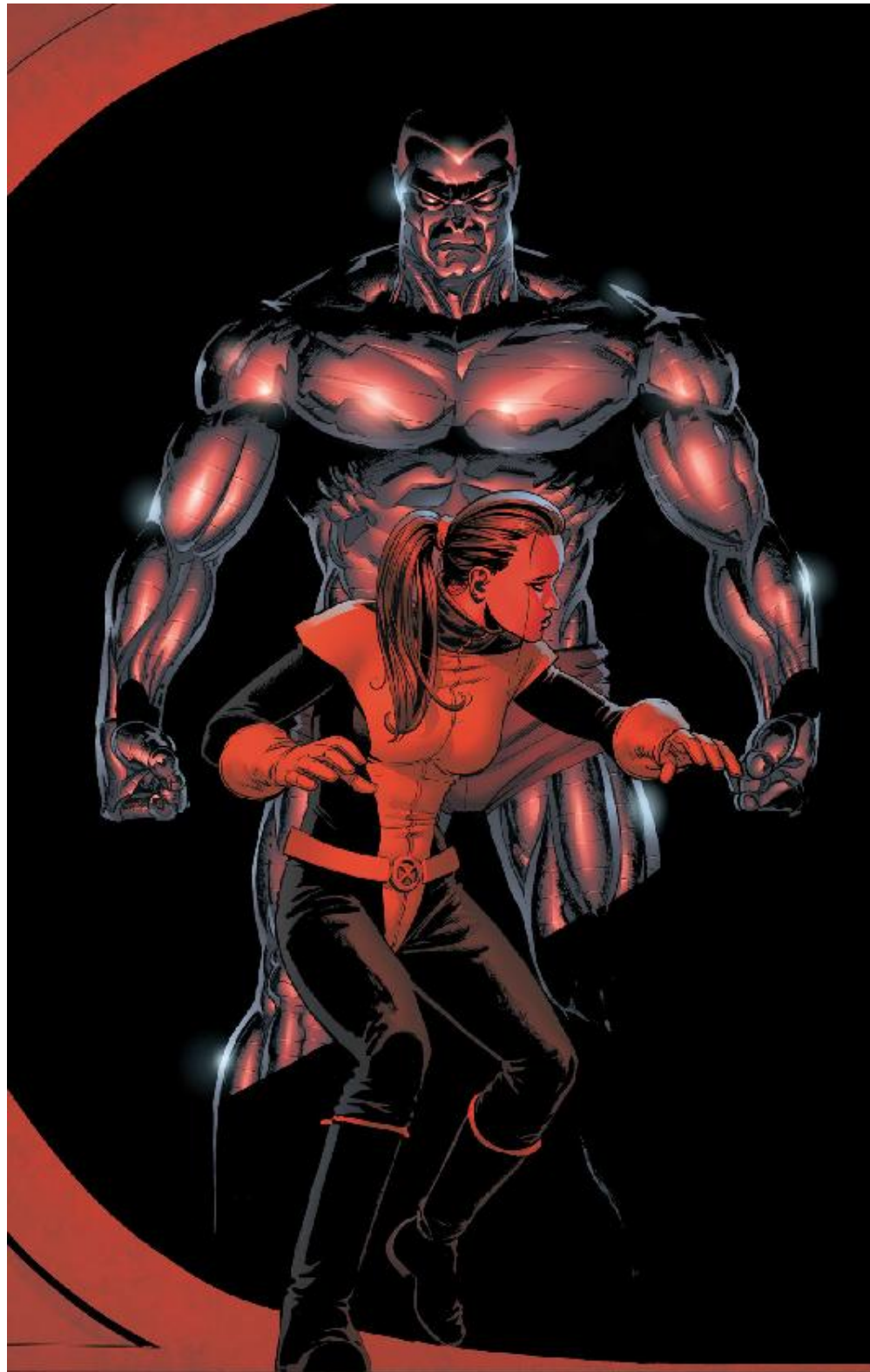






















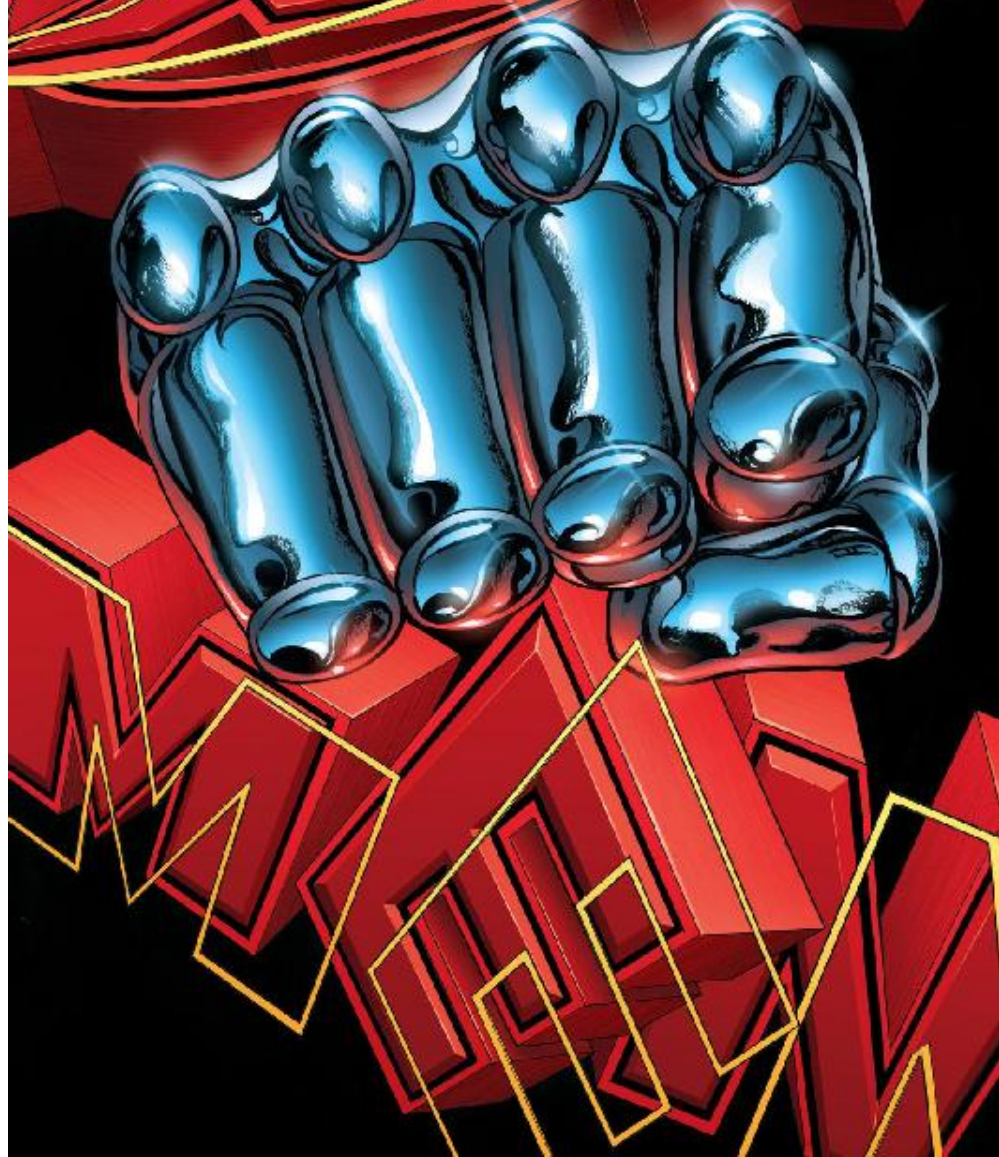




**MARVEL**  
PSR 5

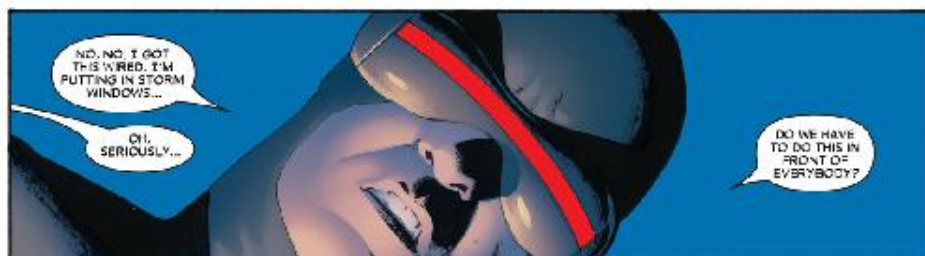
WHEDON CASSADAY

ASTONISHING



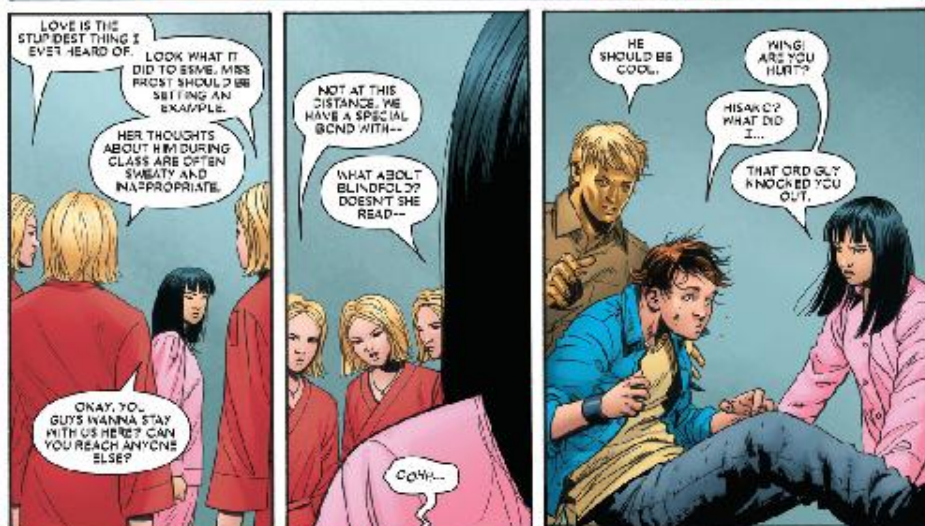
























I ONLY  
KNOW THE  
ROOM.

"ALWAYS DARK  
INSIDE. COLD.


"THEY KEPT ME STRONG.  
BEAT IT... I POUNDED THE  
WALLS EVERY DAY, EVERY  
MINUTE, FOR YEARS...

"WAS 7 YEARS...?"




WHY DID  
THEY--

TESTS.  
THEY DID  
TESTS.



EVERY FEW DAYS  
THE GAS WOULD COME.  
AND I WOULD WAKE ON  
THE 'ABLE. THEY WOULD  
CUT AT ME INJECT...  
THINGS...ALL I SAW  
WERE THEIR MASKS.

AND HIM.  
THE ONE WHO  
BOUGHT ME  
BACK.



CONGRATULATIONS,  
PETER RASPUTIN. YOUR  
DEATH HAS SAVED  
MILANKIND FROM THE  
LEGACY V RUS.

AND YOU  
WILL PAY FOR  
THAT WITH YOUR  
LIFE.









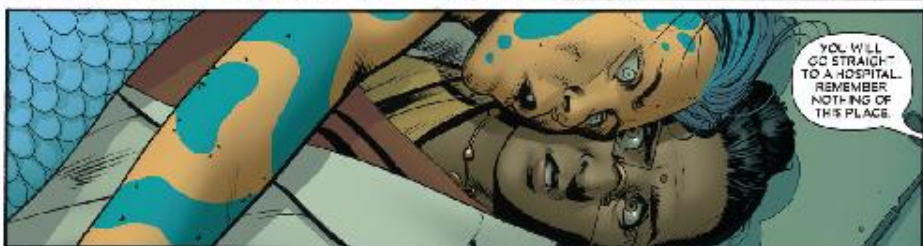
















I'M NOT  
ABOUT TO  
ARGUE THAT  
POINT.

SO WHAT  
DO WE DO  
NOW?



EMMA TAKES  
SCOTT BACK TO  
THE INST TUTE.  
HANK AND ME  
FIND KITTY...

AND THEN  
WE BURN THIS  
PLACE TO THE  
GROUND.



FIRST OFF,  
SCOTT AND I  
GIVE THE ORDERS  
LOGAN.

SECOND,  
GOOD PLAN.

IT WON'T  
HELP.



I'VE ALREADY  
GIVEN SAMPLES  
AND ALL MY DATA  
TO HUNDREDS OF  
TEAMS AROUND  
THE WORLD.

"ACVS" CAN I  
BE CRUSHED NOW.  
NOT EVEN BY  
YOU.



NICE  
BLUFF.

BUT I  
CALL.

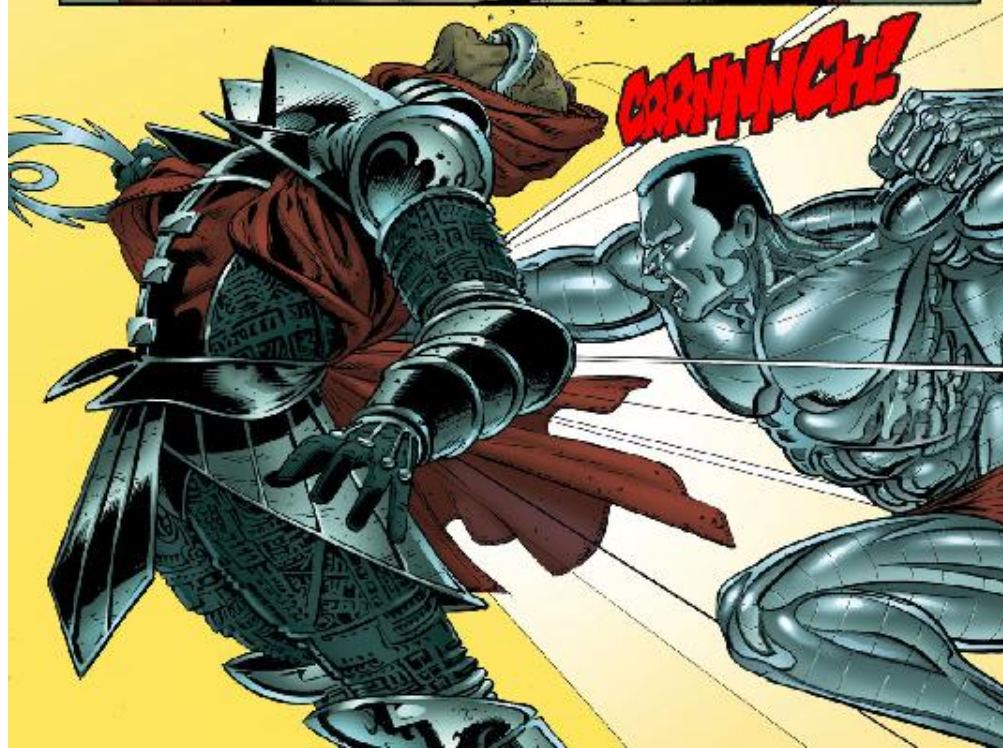
























**MARVEL**  
PSR 6

WHEDON  
CASSADAY

# ASTONISHING X-MEN<sup>®</sup>





















YOU DON'T HAVE  
THE AUTHORIZATION  
TO MAKE ME DIVULGE  
CLASSIFIED--

YEAH WHAT I  
GO<sup>TM</sup> IS THE URGE  
TO DISAPPEAR AND  
LEAVE THIS DINK A<sup>TM</sup>  
THE MERCY OF THESE  
VERY UNREASONABLE  
SUPER-POWERED  
TYPES.

TELL  
THEM THE  
TRUTH.



IT AIN'T  
LIKE THEY'RE  
GONNA LIKE  
IT.



I'M SPECIAL AGENT  
ABIGAIL BRAND. I HEAD  
THE SENTIENT WORLDS  
OBSERVATION AND  
RESPONSE  
DEPARTMENT.

WE WORK  
WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.  
HANDLE MATTERS  
EXTRATERRESTRIAL.

THE GOVERNMENT<sup>TM</sup>  
AND THEIR ACRONYMS...  
HONESTLY, IT'S  
ADOPTABLE.

I DIDN'T PICK  
THE NAME. THE FACT  
IS, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS ITS  
HANDS FULL TRYING  
TO KEEP THIS WORLD  
TOGETHER.



AND  
SOMEBODY HAS  
TO KEEP TRACK OF  
THE OTHERS.



SO FINDING  
TERRORISTS SIN'T  
JUST FOR EARTH-LINGS  
ANYMORE. HUH?

WE SELLING  
ARMS TO THE  
SKRULLS.  
TOO?



WHAT WERE  
DOING, MISTER  
SUMMERS. IS TRYING  
TO PREVENT A  
WAR.













A panel showing Wolverine, with his claws retracted, talking to Jean Grey. He is wearing his signature blue and black X-Men uniform. Jean is wearing a green turtleneck and has her hair in a ponytail.

SO YOU GOT  
TOGETHER AND  
DECIDED TO TAKE  
CARE OF THE MUTIES  
ONCE AND FOR  
ALL, HUH?

DEAL WITH THE  
FACTS, NUMBER ONE.  
OUR OWN PRECOG STATS  
CONFIRMED THEIR FINDINGS.  
A MUTANT WILL ALMOST  
CERTAINLY DESTROY THE  
BREAKWORLD IN THE  
NEXT THREE YEARS.

THAT'S A  
WHOLE WORLD  
GONE BECAUSE OF  
ONE MUTANT.

A close-up panel of Cyclops, showing his face with the red visor and his mouth open as if speaking.

THAT  
WOULDN'T BE  
A FIRST, NOW,  
WOULD IT?

A panel showing Cyclops, Jean Grey, and another woman with blonde hair. Cyclops is on the left, Jean is on the right, and the blonde woman is in the center.

JEAN.

JEAN  
GREY IS DEAD,  
AGENT.

YEAH,  
THAT'LL  
LAST.

A panel showing Jean Grey and another woman with blonde hair. Jean is on the left, looking serious, and the blonde woman is on the right.

DID YOU  
KNOW WHAT HE  
WAS DOING TO  
PETER? ALL THIS  
TIME DID YOU  
KNOW?

A panel showing Jean Grey on the left, looking towards two men on the right. One man is older with a beard, and the other is younger.

YES.

A panel showing Jean Grey on the left, looking at Wolverine on the right. Wolverine is wearing his mask and has his claws out.

HURRY  
DIDN'T. NOT HIS  
DEPARTMENT.

WHAT ABOUT  
KAVITA?

ORD CAME HERE  
WITH A DECLARATION  
OF WAR, PEOPLE. THE  
CURE WAS DIPLOMATIC  
AP DANCING TIL HE  
COULD GET A BEAD  
ON NIKHIL ANT  
WAS--

PLEASE  
ANSWER MY  
QUESTION.











YOU WERE  
GONNA BRIBE  
ME ON THIS,  
I'M SURE

CAN YOU  
BRING HIM  
DOWN?

NOT A  
CHANCE



HE'S GOT THE  
BLOODY SERUM  
PEOPLE. HIT HIM  
WITH THE JET!

THERE'S A  
GIRL IN THERE  
WITH HIM!

YOU HAVE  
TO HELP  
HER...

YOU'RE NOT  
SEEING THE BIG  
PICTURE TOO  
WELL ANYMORE



HE'S BUILDING  
TO VERT CAL THRUST.  
TEN SECONDS AND  
HE'S GONE.



NO.

HE  
DIDN'T GET  
AWAY.



YOU  
FEELING  
RESTED UP,  
PETSY?

I AM  
STRONG



THEN I  
GOT JUST TWO  
WORDS FOR YOU  
BUB.













...NOT A  
SOLITARY  
THING.

WE AL... WALK  
AWAY FROM THIS LIKE  
NOTHING HAPPENED. WHICH,  
AFTER S.H.I.E.L.D. GET'S  
DONE HERE, WILL BE MORE  
OR LESS THE TRUTH.



YOU ARE  
OF COURSE  
JOKING.

OF COURSE.  
THAT'S ONE OF  
THOSE JOKE'S I'M  
SO FAMOUS AND  
BELOVED FOR.



WHAT AGENT  
BRAND HAS DONE  
S INHUMAN, ILLEGAL  
AND APPALLING.

YEAH,  
SHE'S A  
PIF.

FURY--

STAND  
GONNA SPEAK FOR  
MY COUNTRY HERE--

I DON'T--

AND  
NEITHER IS  
SHE.

FACT IS, SHE  
BLEW IT ON MANY  
LEVELS AND THAT  
WILL NOT GO  
UNREMARKED.



BUT SHE'S  
DEALING WITH  
A MUCH BIGGER  
PICTURE THAN  
ANY OF US.

SHE'S TRYING  
TO STOP A WAR  
THAT JUST GOT THAT  
MUCH CLOSER TO  
INEVITABLE.



AND SINCE  
THE ONLY THINGS  
THAT GOT WRECKED  
IN THAT LANDING  
WERE DR. KNOX'S BACK  
AND THE ILLUS TRICUS  
AMBASSADOR...

...AND IT'S  
INTERESTING  
HOW THAT  
WORKED  
OUT...



...I'D COUNT  
MY BLESSINGS  
AND GO









I LEAVE  
THE WORLD  
IN TERRIBLE  
TURMOIL.

I COME BACK.  
SAME TURMOIL.  
NOTHING AT ALL  
DIFFERENT.

ACTU-  
ALLY, THINGS ARE  
A LITTLE  
DIFFERENT...



IT IS FUNNY  
THAT IT'S YOU  
WHO FINDS ME.  
DON'T YOU  
THINK?



NO.

I DON'T  
THINK IT'S  
FUNNY.



I THINK  
MAYBE IT'S  
IMPORTANT.

I THINK IT'S...  
SOMEHOW...



I THINK  
IT'S WHY I'M  
HERE.





" WE DEAL  
WITH HER  
FIRST."



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